

Reading.

## FRANCINE CHRISTOPHE'S CHOCOLATE


The Holocaust was the systematic, bureaucratic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of six million Jews by the Nazi regime and its collaborators. *Holocaust* is a word of Greek origin meaning "sacrifice by fire." The Nazis, who came to power in Germany in January 1933, believed that Germans were "racially superior" and that the Jews, deemed "inferior," were an alien threat to the so-called German racial community.

In 1933, the Jewish population of Europe stood at over nine million. Most European Jews lived in countries that Nazi Germany would occupy or influence during World War II. By 1945, the Germans and their collaborators killed nearly two out of every three European Jews as part of the "Final Solution," the Nazi policy to murder the Jews of Europe. The Holocaust ended when Russian, British and American troops invaded Poland and Germany in the final stages of world War 2. This invasion led to the end of the war and Germany capitulating. These troops discovered the extermination camps but the German troops who had been operating them had fled leaving the prisoners to their luck. It ended because the holocaust was an atrocity carried out by the German army and the arrival of the allied armies stopped it immediately.

Here's an incredible tale from Human, a documentary film made by interviewing over 2,000 people. Each person in Human has something to say that's worth listening to - like the convicted murderer who tears up speaking about meeting the mother and grandmother of the woman and child he killed, or the well-known phrase carved onto the wall saying in a concentration camp: ***'If there is a God, he will have to beg for my forgiveness'***. But perhaps no story is as moving as this extraordinary tale of survival, told by an extraordinary 82-year-old survivor of a concentration camp.

The four-minute clip features French-Jewish Francine Christophe, who was born in 1933, the year





Hitler came to power. Growing up, she had to wear the Star of David on her lapel to identify her as a Jew. At eight, she found herself in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in Nazi Germany - the same camp that Anne Frank and her sister died in. But Francine Christophe's story has a happier ending than Anne Frank's, even though it will likely make you reach for the box of tissues.

Her story begins in the Belsen camp but ends several decades later, in the most inspiring manner possible. It involves a pregnant camp-mate, a newborn baby and two pieces of chocolate.

I had to wear it on my chest, of course, like all Jews," Francine Christophe begins, holding up a yellow cloth Star of David. "It's big, isn't it?" She **poignantly** adds, "Especially for a child. "Christophe was born in France in 1933, the year Hitler came to power, and she was deported to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in northern Germany in 1944, alongside her mother. In the video below from the YouTube channel Human the Movie, Christophe paints the picture of a particular incident that yielded a miraculous occurrence 70 year after the fact.

Christophe describes "an amazing thing that happened" during her time at Bergen-Belsen. She prefaces by saying that she was allowed to bring a small bag with a couple of items into the concentration camp, so her mother chose to pack away two small pieces of chocolate. Christophe's mother told her, "We'll keep these for a day when I see you've collapsed completely, and really need help. "Christophe never ended up eating her chocolate, however. There was an emaciated pregnant woman, H el ene, among those imprisoned with Christophe. When she went into labor, it was Christophe's mother, the barracks chief, who went with H el ene to the camp hospital.

Before they left, she asked Christophe, "Remember that piece of chocolate I was saving for you?"

"Yes, *Mama*." Christophe replied.

Her mother asked, "*How do you feel?*"

"*Fine, Mama*," Christophe replied, "*I'll be fine*."

So, Christophe's mother asked if it would be all right if she gave the piece of chocolate to H el ene instead, adding, "Giving birth here will be hard. She may die. If I give her the chocolate, it may help her."

"Yes, *Mama*. *Go ahead*."

H el ene, the pregnant woman, went on to give birth to a weak baby girl. H el ene ate the chocolate and survived the birth, later bringing her child back to the barracks, where she did not make a peep for six months. The baby never cried, when the camp was liberated after those six months, they unwrapped the baby's clothes and

the baby screamed, that day was the day when the baby was born. Christophe powerfully says, "This was when she was born." Many, many years later, just a few years before the below segment was filmed, Christophe's daughter asked her if she believed that the deportees would have been better off after returning home in 1945 had they had access to psychologists or psychiatrists. Christophe's confident answer was, "Undoubtedly, but we didn't have them."

Moved by this idea, Christophe decided to set up a conference for professionals and community members to converge to discuss this exact topic. She said that many people showed up -- elderly survivors, psychologists, psychiatrists -- but one of these visitors stood out far more than the rest.

This particular woman was a psychiatrist, and when she approached the podium to give a talk, she started by saying, "I live in Marseille, where I am a psychiatrist. Before I deliver my talk, I have something for Francine Christophe."

From her pocket, this woman pulled out a piece of chocolate and handed it to Christophe saying:

*"I'M THE BABY."*



Read the text and answer the questions. **(6 points)**

**1. The holocaust is considered as...**

- a. Massacre, mistreatment and oppression.
- b. Persecution, state-sponsored and well-treatment.
- c. Bureaucratic, state-sponsored persecution by the Jewish.
- d. Non-from above.

**2. Why were Jewish considered as an 'Alien threat'?**

- a. Because German considered themselves as first-rated people.
- b. Because German considered themselves as superior as Jewish.
- c. Because German considered themselves as not as first-rated people as Jewish.
- d. All from above.

**3. What happened in the 'final solution'?**

- a. 2 out of 3 Jewish passed on.
- b. 2 out of 3 Jewish passed out.
- c. 2 out of 3 Jewish passed away.
- d. 2 out of 3 Jewish passed in.

**4. What invasion led to the end of the war?**

- a. Poland invasion.
- b. British invasion.
- c. Polish invasion.
- d. Non-from above.

**5. 'If there is a God, he will have to beg for my forgiveness'...** by reading this quotation the reader might feel...

- a. Joy, sadness, hopeless, pity.
- b. Glad, sadness, grief, calm.
- c. Grief, peaceful, nervous, glad.
- d. Pity, grief, sadness, hopeless.

**6. What does 'poignantly' refer to?**

- a. evoking a keen sense of joy and peace.
- b. evoking a keen sense of happiness and affection.
- c. evoking a keen sense of sadness or regret.
- d. evoking a keen sense of glee and triumph

Read the sentences and decide if the sentences are true (T) or false (F). **(6 points)**

- 1. Christophe packed two pieces of chocolates. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. The chocolate was supposed to be used when her mother collapsed. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Little Francine did not want to give her chocolate away to the woman. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. The conference was due to deportees not having access to psychologists/psychiatrists. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. an unknown woman gave something special to Christophe. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. By listening... '*I'm the baby*' Francine might have felt astonished and wowed. \_\_\_\_\_